

**U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Prisons**



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# **A Profile of Female Offenders**

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## Table of Contents

Overview. . . . .	3
Profile of Offenders by Gender. . . . .	4
Offense. . . . .	4
Race. . . . .	4
Classification. . . . .	4
BOP Institutions . . . . .	5
Community Corrections Contract Facilities . . . . .	5
District of Columbia Revitalization Act. . . . .	5
Births, Abortions, and Pregnancy. . . . .	6
Abortion Funding for Federal Inmates. . . . .	6
Education. . . . .	6
Occupational Training Programs . . . . .	6
Family Issues. . . . .	8
Parenting Programs . . . . .	8
Mothers . . . . .	11
Born Free Ministry, Inc. . . . .	11
Tender Mercy Ministries . . . . .	12
Hospitality House . . . . .	12
Intensive Confinement Center . . . . .	12
Medical Care . . . . .	12
Religious Services . . . . .	13
Psychology Services Programs. . . . .	13
Drug Treatment . . . . .	13
Psychological Counseling . . . . .	14
Psychology Treatment Programs . . . . .	14
Federal Prison Industries. . . . .	14
Community Corrections . . . . .	15
Contract Detention Facilities . . . . .	15

**Overview.** Since 1988, the number of female inmates has increased by 182 percent, compared to a rate of growth of 158 percent for male inmates during the same period. However, the average number of female offenders housed in federal prison facilities has always been small in comparison with the figure for males and currently, women compose only 7.1 percent of the total Federal prison population. This is the primary reason why, historically, most Bureau facilities, policies, programs, and services were not designed with the unique needs of female inmates in mind.

- 7 percent female (7,512 inmates)
- 93 percent male (98,551 inmates)

There is evidence that inmates who have strong family relationships are more likely to reintegrate successfully into society after serving their prison sentence. This is especially important for female inmates, who traditionally, have been the primary caretakers of their children.

Therefore, it is the Bureau of Prisons' policy to attempt to place inmates in the least restrictive environments that their security level requires, which are as close as possible to their residences to facilitate the maintenance of family relationships.

The issue of placement presents unique challenges with regard to females due to the relatively small number of female inmates. It would be prohibitively expensive to establish facilities for small numbers of women in every state, relatively close to the prisoners' release destinations. The economies of scale achieved by having a smaller number of facilities with comprehensive programs and services for a larger number of women have limited the BOP's ability to assign women to appropriately secure facilities near their places of residence. However, with the implementation of the female classification system in 1994 and the activation of low security facilities in Carswell, Texas and Tallahassee, Florida, and minimum security facilities in Coleman, Florida and Dublin, California, greater parity in proximity of release destination was achieved.

BOP Population 1988-1998											
	May 1988	May 1989	May 1990	May 1991	May 1992	May 1993	May 1994	May 1995	May 1996	May 1997	May 1998
<b>Males</b>	38,126	42,453	52,152	57,270	62,764	71,368	78,072	81,792	86,010	91,294	98,551
<b>Females</b>	2,664	3,190	4,046	4,644	5,162	5,954	6,239	6,441	6,673	7,189	7,512
<b>% Male</b>	93.5%	93.0%	92.8%	92.5%	92.4%	92.3%	92.6%	92.8%	92.8%	92.7%	92.9%
<b>% Female</b>	6.5%	7.0%	7.2%	7.5%	7.6%	7.7%	7.4%	7.2%	7.2%	7.3%	7.1%
<b>Total Population</b>	40,790	45,643	56,198	61,914	67,926	77,322	84,311	88,233	92,683	98,483	106,063

While the Bureau of Prisons has long had staff members who have been concerned about the specific needs of female prisoners, including those with children, it was not until recent years that the agency began exploring these issues in depth, with the intent of implementing change where appropriate. In this sense, the Bureau has mirrored society's treatment of women; as equal opportunity for women has come to the forefront as a significant public concern and political issue, the topic has become increasingly important to correctional administrators as well. Furthermore, the growing number and percentage of women in the Federal offender population has also motivated the agency to fully address the specific needs of these individuals and design and modify programs and policies accordingly. In the early 90's the agency made policy strides, particularly in the areas of inmate classification and institutional assignments for women. In addition, the Bureau has made a concerted effort to ensure that comparable community, work, education, recreation, rehabilitative, and psychological programs and services are offered to both male and female inmates and that the specific health needs of women, which are typically different than those of men, are met. Programs and services for men and women are not necessarily identical, but are based on the different characteristics and needs of these two populations.

A number of programs are available to help inmates maintain and improve their family relationships, including parent education, marriage encounters, children's days, family weekends, and specialized pre-and post-natal services and programs for pregnant inmates in Community Corrections Centers. Some of these programs are available at both male and female facilities, while others are geared more specifically to the needs of women.

## Profile of Offenders by Gender.

**Offense.** The offenses committed by both men and women are very similar, except for crimes involving violence.

Percentage of Offenses by Gender		
Offense	Females	Males
Drug Offense	68	59
Extortion/Fraud	11	5
Property Offenses	6	6
Firearms	2	10
Immigration	1	5
Robbery	4	10

**Average Age.** Female inmates are on the average 38 years of age, while males are 37.

**Race.** The racial breakdown of BOP inmates for both women and men is very similar.

BOP Population By Race and Gender (Percentage)				
	White	Black	Native American	Asian
Women	58	39	1	2
Men	56	41	2	2

**Classification.** Women tend to commit less serious crimes and have less serious offense histories than men and their security level classification is lower than male offenders. There is no medium security level classification for female offenders. Therefore, a major difference between the

BOP female and male populations is in the type of facility needed to house them.

Inmate Security Level			
	Minimum	Low	High
Female	62	29	1
Male	23	33	14

## **B**OP Institutions **Federal Prison Camps - Minimum Security**

FPC Alderson, West Virginia  
FPC Bryan, Texas  
SCP Carswell, Texas  
SCP Coleman, Florida  
SCP Danbury, Connecticut  
SCP Dublin, California  
SCP Lexington, Kentucky  
SCP Pekin, Illinois  
SCP Phoenix, Arizona

## **Federal Correctional Institutions - Low Security**

FCI Danbury, Connecticut  
FCI Tallahassee, Florida  
FCI Dublin, California

## **Federal Medical Center - all levels**

FMC Carswell, Texas

## **Administrative - High Security**

Carswell ADMIN

## **Pre-trial Facilities - all levels**

MDC Guynabo, Puerto Rico

FDC Miami, Florida  
MDC Brooklyn, New York  
MCC Chicago, Illinois  
MDC Los Angeles, California  
MCC New York, New York  
FTC Oklahoma, Oklahoma  
MCC San Diego, California  
FDC SeaTac, Washington  
FCI Tucson FCI

**C**ommunity Corrections Contract Facilities. 13.6 percent of all female inmates are housed in contract facilities; 9.2 percent of all male inmates are housed in contract facilities.

**D**istrict of Columbia Revitalization Act. In August 1997, Congress passed the District of Columbia Revitalization Act which requires the Bureau of Prisons to transfer over 7,000 D.C. inmates to BOP institutions for completion of their sentences. By October 1, 2001, any person who has been sentenced to incarceration pursuant to the District of Columbia Code shall be designated by the Bureau of Prisons to a penal or correctional facility operated or contracted by the Bureau of Prisons.

To curtail the hardship this initiative may pose on inmates, the Bureau agreed to attempt to transfer D.C. inmates to institutions within 500 miles of their legal residences. This agreement is consistent with the BOP's philosophy of keeping inmates as near home as possible. Since September 1997, the Bureau has agreed to take all female offenders, minimum security level male offenders, and up to 200 Low security level offenders. The Bureau has already transferred 117 of 297 female inmates to Alderson, Danbury, Carswell-

Medical, Tallahassee, and the Administrative Unit at Carswell. By December 2001, it is anticipated the Lorton facilities of the D.C. Department of Corrections will be closed and that by the year 2003, at least 50 percent of the D.C. sentenced felon population will be housed in BOP custody.

**B**irths, Abortions, and Pregnancy. There were 352 pregnancies, 75 births and 16 abortions performed during fiscal year 1997.

**A**bortion Funding for Federal Inmates. The BOP provides pregnant inmate with medical, religious, and social counseling to aid her in making the decision whether to carry the pregnancy to full term or to have an elective abortion. If an inmate chooses to have an abortion, she must sign a statement to that effect. The inmate must pay for the abortion as appropriated funds cannot be used for abortions except when the life of the mother would be endangered or in the case of rape.

**E**ducation. 60 percent of female offenders have a verified high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) certificate. 50 percent of designated female offenders participate in an education program. 21 percent of designated female offenders participate in a General Educational Development (GED) program.

**O**ccupational Training Programs. The following occupational training programs are offered at various institutions housing women. Programs marked with an asterisk (\*) lead to outside certification or accreditation.

● **Alderson Camp** -- six Occupational Training Programs: Accounting Clerk\*, Administrative Clerk\*, Clerk Typist\*, Horticulture\*, Library Assistant\*, Office Management\*.

Twelve Apprenticeship Programs: Air Conditioning/Refrigeration\*, Baker\*, Bricklayer\*, Carpenter\*, Computer Peripheral Operator\*, Cook\*, Dental Assistant\*, Electrician\*, Landscape Gardener\*, Painter\*, Plumber\*, Power House Operator\*.

● **Bryan Camp** -- five Occupational Training Programs: Business Technology\*, Computer Aided Drafting\*, and Computer Refurbishing\*, Cosmetology\*, Master Gardener\*.

One Apprenticeship Program: Dental Hygiene\*.

● **Bryan ICC** -- one Occupational Training Program: Horticulture.

● **Carswell Camp** -- one Occupational Training Program: Office Technology\*.

Fifteen Apprenticeship Programs: Baker, Bricklayer, Carpenter, Computer Peripheral Equipment Operator, Cook, Dental Assistant, Dental Laboratory Technician, Electrician, Heating and Air Conditioning Installation and Repair, Landscape Gardener, Nurse Assistant, Painter, Plumber, Power Plant Operator, Welder Combination, all of which receive outside certification.

● **Coleman Camp** -- one Occupational Training Program: Culinary Arts.

Sixteen Apprenticeship Programs: Baker, Cement Mason, Computer Operator, Cook,

Cook (Hotel and Restaurant), Dental Assistant, Drafter, Electrician, Heating and Air Conditioning, Horticulture, Housekeeping, Land Management Technician, Landscape Technician, Painting, Plumbing, Small Engine Repair.

- **Danbury Camp** -- two Occupational Training Programs: Business Education\*, Business Management\*.

One Apprenticeship Program: Dental Assistant\*.

- **Danbury FCI** -- five Occupational Training Programs: Business Management\*, Business Vocational Training\*, Building Trades\*, Culinary Arts\*, Horticulture\*.

Seven Apprenticeship programs: Carpentry\*, Cook\*, Dental Assistant\*, Electrician\*, Painter\*, Stationary Engineer\*, Tool Machine Set-Up Operator\*.

“Career Expo”, a part of the release preparation program, has been available to female offenders housed in the main institution for the past several years. Local executives volunteer to meet with inmates and provide them with release readiness skills. Special emphasis is placed on resume writing, job interview skills, and skill building for reentering the job market.

- **Dublin Camp** -- two active Occupational Training Programs: Bus Driving Operation\* and Horticulture. Three inactive Occupational Training Programs: Business, Computer Repair\*, and Warehouse Management/Fork Lift Operation\*.

- **Dublin FCI** -- three Occupational Training Programs: Business\*, Business

Accounting\*, Computer Repair\*.

One Apprenticeship Programs: Dental Assistant\*.

- **Lexington Camp** offers two Vocational Training Programs: Digitalized Mapping\* and Computer Applications (WordPerfect).

- **Marianna Camp** -- three Occupational Training Programs: Adult Distributive Cooperative Training\*, and Computer Applications Program\*, Typing\*. They are also planning to offer a Computer Repair Program.

- **New York (MCC)** -- one Occupational Training Program: Computer Applications. One On-the-Job Training Program: Food Service.

- **Pekin Camp** -- three Occupational Training Programs: Building Trade\*, Horticulture\*, Office Technology\*.

The U.S. Department of Labor recently approved four apprenticeship programs: Auto Mechanist\*, Building Maintenance Repairer\*, Horticulturist\*, and Welder\*, which will be implemented in the near future..

As part of the release preparation program, female offenders also gain job interview experience through a mock job fair.

- **Phoenix Camp** -- three Occupational Training Programs: Computer Word Processing, Bicycle Repair, Computer Refurbishing Theory.

Three Apprenticeship Programs: UNICOR

Quality Assurance\*, Food Service\*, and Food Service Management\*.

- **Tallahassee FCI** -- seven Occupational Training Programs: Barbering/Cosmetology\*, Business Education\*, Electronics\*, Horticulture\*, Masonry\*, Small Engine Repair\*, Woodworking\*.

Sixteen apprenticeship programs: Baker\*, Butcher\*, Cook\*, Dental Assistant\*, Dental Technician\*, Electrician\*, Horticulturist\*, Landscape Management Technician\*, Landscape Technician Supervisor\*, Metal Fabricator\*, Painter\*, Plumber\*, Quality Assurance Technician\*, Refrigeration Mechanic\*, and Stationary Engineer\*.

**F**amily Issues. Data collected in 1991 shows that 76.1 percent of all inmates have children; 80.1 percent of female inmates have children, whereas 75.8 percent of male inmates have children.

## Parenting Programs

Parenting programs have been in place in many Federal correctional institutions since 1986. Initially, funding was provided at four female institutions, and subsequently, at all female institutions and at least one male institution in each BOP region in 1993. In 1995, parenting programs became a requirement for all institutions in the BOP.

The following parenting programs are offered at the institutions housing female inmates.

- **FPC Alderson** uses the LIFT (Linking Inmate Families Together) program. This program is designed to help inmate mothers maintain their family relationships by giving

them the tools for both survival and growth.

The LIFT program has two interwoven components: the children's center and parenting education.

The children's center is a warm, child-centered setting, adjacent to the visiting room, where inmates and their children can spend weekend days working to re-establish and strengthen their relationships.

Regularly scheduled classes and supportive workshops provide inmates opportunities to learn more about children, child development, and family skills.

- **MDC Brooklyn** offers parenting program to female offenders that includes topics such as anger management, discipline, foster care, and coping with confinement skills.

Visiting room activities include special parenting activities around holidays for inmates and their children.

- **FPC Bryan** offers 8 areas of study in the parenting program. Some topics include, but are not limited to, building self-esteem, developing trust, parenting from a distance, understanding your role as a parent, and the family unit. These courses are taught by Bureau staff and they are designed to help establish positive relationships and family values.

A children's center is located in the visiting room. Inmates and their children spend weekend days making art projects together and trying to maintain bonds while re-establishing their relationship with one another. Inmate volunteers are utilized to help with the weekend art projects. They



also have contract personnel and volunteers from Texas A&M who assist with the program on weekends. The same parenting program is also offered at ICC Bryan.

- **FMC Carswell** offers an integrated six-month course consisting of various topics to help mothers reestablish, strengthen, and maintain family relationships through two key components: structured parenting classes and children's center activities. Parenting topics/courses include:

- Parenting Skills
- Discipline
- Family Support Skills
- Self-Esteem
- Family Literacy
- The Family Unit
- Substance Abuse Education
- Prenatal Care
- Parenting from a Distance
- Community Social Services
- Communication Skills for Parents
- Support

A children's center is located in the camp and main institution visiting rooms. Mothers and their children may spend time together during visiting days or holidays. Contract workers from Parent and Children Together, Inc. (PACT) assist with games, activities and program opportunities for the children.

In the Video-to-Child Program, inmates completing the Parenting from a Distance phase may record themselves on videotape reading books or telling stories to provide a video link of communication with their children.

- **FCC Coleman** offers a parenting education program to female offenders at the satellite camp. The program is taught by contract workers from Parent and Children Together, Inc. (PACT). Parenting education topics include increasing self-esteem for parents and children, communication skills, parenting influence on behavior, types of parents, and children with parents in prison.

- **FCI Danbury** offers a variety of parenting activities to female offenders at both the main institution and the satellite camp to assist inmates in maintaining family ties. Danbury has a special room for visiting activities. Visiting is weekly, using inmate volunteers and family literacy volunteers from the community.

- **FCI Dublin** uses an outside contractor and a variety of volunteers to provide a parenting program for female offenders at the main institution and the satellite camp. Three nights a week, parenting classes and groups are offered in both English and Spanish. Classes deal with issues such as family relationships, household management, sex education, parenting literacy skills, birth control, AIDS, self-esteem development, personal responsibilities as parents, and self-discipline.

The children's center at FCI Dublin and the FPC Dublin offers inmates and their children a comfortable area to interact with each other. The children's center is located in the visiting room.

- **MDC Guynabo** offers a parenting program to its female offender population. The parenting program includes parent education, social services and visiting room activities.

A parenting information center is available at the visiting room. Community-based resource information is also disseminated to female offenders.

- **FMC Lexington** offers a parenting program to female offenders at its satellite camp to help them maintain long distance relationships with their children. The parenting program has three components: long-distance parenting skills, social services, and a visiting room program. Female offenders enrolled in the parenting program may obtain a packet which contains an assortment of academic and coloring activities for students to mail home monthly. Upon graduation, students may record and mail a 15-minute video reading of their child(ren)'s favorite book.

- **FCI Marianna** has a satellite camp for female offenders. The camp offers parenting programs for its female offenders. Courses are designed to teach inmates to be better and more successful family members. Inmates involved with this program learn about basic parenting skills, "distance parenting," family literacy, skills to improve family and community support systems, and substance abuse treatments.

- **FDC Miami** offers a parenting program to serve its female offenders. The objectives of the program are to encourage positive parent-child interactions, family values, and to nurture family relationships. Students are made aware of the availability of community-based social services which may be useful to them and their families.

- **MCC New York** offers a parenting program to its female offenders in the pre-trial unit. Parenting education classes meet

twice a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The parenting coordinator conducts interviews and one-on-one counseling for female offenders. Female offenders also participate in visiting activities with their children. Upon completion, participants receive a completion certificate.

- **FCI Pekin** offers a parenting program to its female offenders housed in the camp to assist them to acquire skills in fostering good family relationships. The program obtains the assistance of institution and community resources to accomplish its goals. Seminars are offered through community resources on Toy Safety, HIV/AIDS Awareness, Pregnancy Care and Nutrition. The Parenting Program courses include Parenting Young Children, Parenting Teenagers, Systematic Training for Effective Parenting, and Drug Abuse Resistance Education for Adults (DARE).

- **FCI Phoenix** offers a parenting program to its female offenders housed in the camp. Parenting education classes include basic parenting and communication skills to strengthen family ties. Special visiting activities are also included in the parenting program.

- **MCC San Diego** offers a parenting program to its female offenders. The program is an eight-week course designed to teach female offenders positive child care techniques.

- **FCI Tallahassee** offers a fourteen-week parenting program to its female offenders. The main objective of the program is to support positive relationships among inmates, their spouses, and their children during and after incarceration. The classroom curriculum is designed to build

parenting skills such as maintaining family relationships while incarcerated, effective communication with children, child development, enhancing parental participation in the child's educational process, family literacy, and substance abuse. This program incorporates a visiting room component. Services of volunteers from the community, universities and the institution Psychologists and Chaplains are utilized whenever possible.

- **FCI Tucson** offers a Mothering Support Group to its pre-trial and hold-over female offenders once a month. The primary goal is to provide crisis management information.

### **Mothers and Infants Together (MINT) Program**

The Mothers and Infants Together (MINT) Program is an alternative, residential program for minimum security women who are pregnant at time of sentencing. Women are eligible to enter the program at a Community Corrections Center (CCC) during their last months (usually two months) of pregnancy. In the program, they are given instruction in parenting and coping skills. After the birth of the child, the mother is allowed 3 months with the child to form a bond with the newborn. Prior to placement in a MINT program, the mother is required to make arrangements for a custodian to care for the child during her incarceration. Following the 3-month bonding period, the mother is returned to an institution to complete her sentence. There were 49 female offenders placed in the MINT program in Fiscal Year 1997.

In addition to offering pre-natal services, MINT sites offer services related to chemical

dependency, physical and sexual abuse, self-esteem, budgeting, and vocational and educational programs.

### **Born Free Ministry, Inc.**

Born Free Ministry, Inc., is a prison ministry program of the Galilean Children's Home in Liberty, Kentucky. Its mission is to take and care for babies born to women in prison. It began in 1991 when a supporter -- a pastor who made regular visits to FMC Lexington - - asked Jerry and Sandy Tucker (founders of the Galilean Home) if they could help a young woman inmate by caring for her newborn as she had no one else to turn to. Today, the Galilean Children's Home is still a viable option for the women of FMC Lexington. The infants are taken to visit their mothers at least once a week.

### **Tender Mercy Ministries**

Tender Mercy Ministries is a non-profit, all-volunteer Christian outreach ministry based in Georgia that serves inmates and their families. They work with BOP inmates at FCI Danbury by placing their children in foster homes in Georgia. They bring the infants to visit their mothers in Danbury once a year, and they permit the mothers to make collect calls regarding their children once a week. Tender Mercy Ministries will retain responsibility for an inmate's child until the child is 18 years old, or until the mother is released from prison.

### **Hospitality House**

The Hospitality House in Alderson, West Virginia, provides sleeping accommodations, meals, local transportation, and other services for individuals -- including children and other family members -- who are visiting

inmates at FPC Alderson. Hospitality House accepts donations, but does not charge for its services. Once a quarter, inmates who participate in parenting programs and are eligible for furloughs, may apply to spend a weekend at Hospitality House with their children.

**I**ntensive Confinement Center. The Intensive Confinement Center (ICC) in Bryan, Texas, which opened in July 1992, is the Bureau's first intensive confinement facility for female offenders. The ICC program is designed to provide meaningful sanctions for first-time offenders by introducing them to the realities of confinement and the penalties for criminal behavior. Alternatives to a criminal lifestyle are presented through intense programs and personal-development exercises.

The program consists of a strict regimen of physical conditioning, a labor-intensive work assignment with the U.S. Forest Service, education courses, drug abuse counseling, life skills training, vocational training, and job skills counseling.

**M**edical Care. Each female inmate is given a complete medical history and physical examination within 30 days for short-term custody and within 14 days for long-term custody cases. The physical examination includes a complete examination which includes a gynecological and obstetrical history to include sexual activity and any recent rape history, VDRL/RPR (serology test for syphilis), CBC (complete blood count, if indicated), UA (urinalysis test, microscopic if indicated), clinically indicated infectious disease testing, tuberculosis screening (PPD or chest x-ray) and audiogram (if indicated).

Additional diagnostic and screening laboratory specimens such as pregnancy testing (including Pap Smear, as indicated) are obtained. Immunizations for measles, mumps and rubella are also offered at this time.

The BOP adheres to the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) standards and recommendations for yearly preventative and screening examinations such as mammographies and annual gynecological exams. Females over the age of 50 are offered a complete physical examination as outlined above every two years.

Routine illnesses are addressed at sick call according to individual institution procedures. Contract specialists provide services both at the institution and at outside facilities when required. The BOP has a Medical Referral Center for females at Fort Worth, Texas that provides any needed inpatient hospitalizations or long term medical care needs such as for nursing home patients.

**V**olunteer & Citizen Participation. Institutions housing female inmates offer a variety of programs which involve citizen participation in prison programs and inmate participation in various volunteer efforts in the community.

In addition to volunteer involvement in traditional programs such as religious services, self-help groups, literacy training, and crafts, community volunteers also provide specialized programs geared toward women and their unique issues. For example, several institutions have support groups for victims of domestic violence. FPC Alderson has utilized the services of

volunteers to build and develop a sweat lodge for Native American offenders. Volunteers from the University of California at Berkeley offer a program in poetry writing at FCI Dublin, to teach inmates anger management and how to articulate past negative experiences.

Likewise, female offenders support volunteer efforts in their communities by volunteering their time and talents in a number of programs. Several institutions have programs in which inmates weave and knit garments to support community-based services for indigent patients and families in need. Inmates at FPC Bryan volunteer in the local community's Senior and Special Olympics. Also at Bryan, older, medically restricted inmates perform art work and desktop publishing for community groups utilizing donated supplies. Finally, at FPC Marianna, inmates volunteer in local Habitat for Humanity projects.

**R**eligious Services. Chaplains provide the opportunity for growth within the spiritual dimension of a female offenders life. The chaplains offer regular worship experiences and multi-faith programs utilizing volunteers that provide inmate women with a chance to develop a stronger faith relationship with their Creator. According to national policy "the particular needs of women and special needs offenders may require the contracting of spiritual counselors or advisers for religious needs other than those of a specific faith tradition." Chaplains also provide specialized skills in pastoral counseling. Pregnant female offenders are offered religious counseling to aid them in making an informed decision whether to carry pregnancy to full term. The Religious Services Department develops

creative ways of including women in positive projects and involvement in the community. FCI Danbury designed a quilt panel that was part of the National AIDS Quilt that was on display in Washington D. C. and traveled around the country. In six of our female facilities women take part in a knitting project that provides warmth and comfort to AIDS babies, the elderly and the homeless. Chaplains offer seminars, retreats and support groups in the areas of self worth, parenting, marriage, grief and life after prison. All these programs and services are developed and conducted to meet the unique needs of women inmates.

## **P**sychology Services Programs. **Drug Treatment**

There are five residential drug treatment programs for female offenders. These programs are located at FCI Danbury, FPC Alderson, FCI Tallahassee, FPC Bryan, and FCI Dublin. There are a total of 523 beds for six month programs. Each year the BOP can treat approximately 1,046 female offenders in residential treatment. Drug Education programs and Non-residential Drug Counseling is offered at every institution.

The drug abuse treatment approach is based on the cognitive-behavioral model of therapeutic change. The participants learn that they are responsible for their behavior and the choices they make. They learn skills to improve their ability to manage their lives and to prevent relapse.

## **Psychological Counseling**

Psychological counseling is available in every

facility which houses female offenders. A wide range of specific group therapy approaches are offered to women. From Values Development, Trauma Recovery/Sexual Abuse Survivors groups, to Smoking Cessation, Money Addiction, and Anger Management, the different needs of the female offender population are addressed in group treatment approaches.

The following data reflects the number of different groups and the number of female group members who participated during the calendar year 1997 in seven out of 28 institutions which house female offenders. Not included in these numbers are the groups for female offenders which were conducted at satellite camps.

Psychology Groups Participation		
Facility	Groups	Total Inmates <sup>1</sup>
FCI ALDERSON	136	2646
FCI DANBURY	85	1504
FMC CARSWELL	74	797
FPC BRYAN	90	1119
FCI DUBLIN	81	1559
FCI MARIANNA	85	1324
FCI TALLAHASSEE	52	624
TOTALS	603	9573

### Psychology Treatment Programs

The BOP has developed and implemented a unit based or residential psychology treatment programs for female offenders. The **BRIDGE** program at FCI Danbury is designed to assist inmates in the therapeutic recovery from trauma which resulted from sexual, physical, or psychological victimization.

**F**ederal Prison Industries. As of May 21, 1998, Federal Prison Industries (FPI) employed 15 percent of all female inmates as compared with 18 percent of the male inmate population.

The PREP study reveals that inmates who have worked for UNICOR or participated in vocational training (VT) programs while in BOP custody were less likely to recidivate than those who did not. This is true for all inmates, but appears to be particularly true for female inmates. The period of "survivability" (the time that an inmate

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<sup>1</sup>Some inmates participate in more than one group.

remains crime-free after release) was 11 percent longer for all inmates who participated in UNICOR and VT programs; when broken out for female inmates alone, the findings are even more dramatic. the survivability time for female inmates who participated in UNICOR/VT programs was 36 percent longer.

### **C**ommunity Corrections.

Approximately 12 per cent of all Federal female inmates are housed in Community Corrections facilities, compared to 9 per cent for male inmates. One reason for this difference is that case managers often believe that female inmates have more of a need to be in this transitional setting before release. It is likely that female inmates, when released, will return to caring for their children, and they need more time to prepare for this responsibility than male inmates. Another reason is that female inmates generally are less likely to exhibit "disqualifying factors."

The Comprehensive Sanctions Centers (CSC) program is designed specifically to meet the needs of offenders on supervision who have reverted to the use of drugs or alcohol and inmates who have committed serious crimes and are returning to the community after extended periods of incarceration. The program is similar in many ways to that offered at a traditional Community Corrections Center (CCC), but it gives greater emphasis to offender accountability and programming. Of the 36 Comprehensive Sanctions Centers (CSCs), 17 have female inmates. Of the 606 CSC inmates in May 1998, 96 (16 percent) were women.

Female offenders make up 16 per cent of CCC residents, and 15 per cent of those on home confinement. Women make up 26 per cent of direct court commitments to CCCs.

To qualify for direct commitment to a CCC, both male and female offenders must ordinarily have a sentence of less than one year. They must be minimum security level, and the sentencing judge must recommend that the sentence be served at a CCC.

### **C**ontract Detention Facilities.

Currently, the Bureau houses a small number of sentenced, adult female offenders in contract detention facilities.<sup>2</sup> The largest group (33) are primarily Mexican citizens serving sentences of six months or less for illegal re-entry at the Bell County Jail in Belton, TX. The Bureau houses 26 female offenders at the Geiger Correctional Center in Spokane, WA which is a minimum-security facility for women from the Northwest United States. The remaining women are housed primarily at county jails; they are usually inmates who were program failures from Community Correction Centers (halfway houses) or direct court commitments who are serving very short sentences.

The number of female inmates whom the Bureau houses at contract detention centers will increase in the near future. Last year, Congress transferred the responsibility for incarcerating D.C. Code felony offenders to the Bureau and mandated that the Bureau house some of these offenders in privatized facilities. The Bureau has chosen to house all female D.C. offenders in a privatized contract facility; however, the contractor

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<sup>2</sup>113 as of 5-21-98

who will provide this service has not yet been selected.

Recognizing the importance of specialized training for staff who work in facilities housing female inmates, the Bureau has required that the contractor who is selected to operate the prison for female D.C. offenders develop and implement a comprehensive staff training program. The program must address inappropriate and harassing behaviors, verbal or non-verbal propositions, privacy rights, and different needs of female offenders. In addition, the contractor must develop and make available an education program to all inmates which addresses the subject of sexual assault/sexual abuse.

*For More Information, contact Teresa Hunt Katsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons Special Needs Offender Administrator, at 202-205-4846.*

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